

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 030878WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/010763	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.09.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 30.10.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B62D29/00, B23K31/02, B62D25/10		
Applicant THYSSENKRUPP STEEL AG		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>6</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/010763

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 3-5 as originally filed/furnished

pages* 1, 2 received by this Authority on 12.07.2005 with letter of 12.07.2005

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the claims:

nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished

nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.* 1-3 received by this Authority on 12.07.2005 with letter of 12.07.2005

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☐ the drawings:

sheets 1/2, 2/2 as originally filed/furnished

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/010763

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-3	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-3	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-3	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. (PRIOR ART

The present report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: WO 00/00320 A (AUTOMATED WELDING SYSTEMS
INC; XIAO MIN (CA))

6 January 2000 (2000-01-06)

D2: SIEGERT K ET AL: "OPTIMIERUNG DES
ZIEHVORGANGS BEIM UMFORMEN GESCHWEISSTER
BLECHE (TAILORED BLANKS)",

WERKSTATTSTECHNIK, SPRINGER VERLAG.

BERLIN, DE, vol. 87, no. 6,

June 1997 (1997-06), pages 304-309,

XP000725079 ISSN: 0340-4544

D3: SCHNEIDER C ET AL: "TAILORED BLANKS - EIN
WERKSTOFF FUR NEUE FORMEN DER

KONSTRUKTION", "TAILORED BLANKS - A

MATERIAL FOR NEW WAYS OF DESIGN", THYSSEN

TECHNISCHE BERICHTE, DUISBURG, DE, no. 1,

January 1992 (1992-01), pages 97-106,

XP000600330.

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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2. NOVELTY

2.1 Independent claim 1

2.1.1 Document D3 is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. Said document discloses:

a method for producing sheet metal, in particular of sheet steel, for the manufacture of motor vehicle body parts with at least one localised area of reinforcement, said method including the following steps:

- a) a steel strip is produced in a continuous manufacturing process, said strip comprising 'sub-strips' (figure 1) that run parallel to the main strip and are of different thicknesses and/or grades;*
- b) individual blanks (7) are cut from the strip of sheet metal (1), the cut edges being straight.*

2.1.2 Thus, the subject matter of claim 1 differs from that known from D3 in that a first metal blank from said sheet metal strip is joined to a second metal blank, the line of the joint being straight and at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the 'sub-strips' of the first metal blank, in such a way that the localised reinforcement regions are in the strips that are thicker and/or of a higher grade.

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

2.1.3 The subject matter of independent claim 1 therefore lacks novelty (*PCT Article 33(2)*).

2.1.4 Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and, in consequence, likewise satisfy the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step.

2.2 Dependent claims 2 and 3

2.2.1 Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and, in consequence, likewise satisfy the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty.

3. INVENTIVE STEP

3.1 Independent claim 1

3.1.1 The problem addressed by the present invention can consequently be regarded as that of devising a cost-effective and straightforward way of reinforcing regions that are subject to a high degree of stress.

3.1.2 Document D2 solves this problem by means of an optimised introduction of "tailored blanks" in regions of the bodywork that are subject to a high degree of stress.

3.1.3 A person skilled in the art seeking to solve the problem of interest would therefore combine all

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